

**Conagra, Inc., d/b/a Northern States Beef and United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 73A, AFL-CIO-CLC. Case 30-CA-12183**

November 10, 1993

**DECISION AND ORDER**

BY CHAIRMAN STEPHENS AND MEMBERS  
DEVANEY AND RAUDABAUGH

On August 18, 1993, the General Counsel of the National Labor Relations Board issued a complaint alleging that the Respondent has violated Section 8(a)(5) and (1) of the National Labor Relations Act by refusing the Union's request to bargain following the Union's certification in Case 30-RC-5329. (Official notice is taken of the "record" in the representation proceeding as defined in the Board's Rules and Regulations, Secs. 102.68 and 102.69(g); *Frontier Hotel*, 265 NLRB 343 (1982).) The Respondent filed an answer admitting in part and denying in part the allegations in the complaint.

On September 30, 1993, the General Counsel filed a Motion for Summary Judgment. On October 4, 1993, the Board issued an order transferring the proceeding to the Board and a Notice to Show Cause why the motion should not be granted. The Respondent filed a response and the Union filed a statement in support of the Motion for Summary Judgment. On October 29, 1993, the General Counsel filed a response to the Respondent's opposition.

**Ruling on Motion for Summary Judgment**

In its answer the Respondent admits its refusal to bargain, but attacks the validity of the certification on the basis of its objections to the election in the representation proceeding.

All representation issues raised by the Respondent were or could have been litigated in the prior representation proceeding. The Respondent does not offer to adduce at a hearing any newly discovered and previously unavailable evidence, nor does it allege any special circumstances that would require the Board to reexamine the decision made in the representation proceeding. We therefore find that the Respondent has not raised any representation issue that is properly litigable in this unfair labor practice proceeding. See *Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. v. NLRB*, 313 U.S. 146, 162 (1941). Accordingly, we grant the Motion for Summary Judgment.<sup>1</sup>

On the entire record, the Board makes the following

<sup>1</sup> Member Raudabaugh did not participate in the representation proceeding.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

**I. JURISDICTION**

The Respondent, a corporation, has been engaged in the processing of beef at its Edgar, Wisconsin facility. During the past calendar year, the Respondent, in conducting its business operations, sold and shipped from its facility goods and material valued in excess of \$50,000 directly to customers located outside the State of Wisconsin. We find that the Respondent is an employer engaged in commerce within the meaning of Section 2(2), (6), and (7) of the Act and that the Union is a labor organization within the meaning of Section 2(5) of the Act.

**II. ALLEGED UNFAIR LABOR PRACTICES**

**A. The Certification**

Following the election held March 27, 1992, the Union was certified on May 28, 1993, as the collective-bargaining representative of the employees in the following appropriate unit:

All full-time and regular part-time production and maintenance employees employed by the Employer at its plant at 316 Third Avenue, Edgar, Wisconsin; excluding all office clerical employees, quality assurance employees, sales persons, graders, computer operators-programmers, panel board operators, logic system operator, manifestors, checkers, dispatchers, plant clericals, scalers, ground beef formulators, buyers, electronic scales technician, medical department employees, night sanitation employees, janitors, truck spotters and washers, managerial employees, professional employees, guards and supervisors as defined in the Act.

The Union continues to be the exclusive representative under Section 9(a) of the Act.

**B. Refusal to Bargain**

Since June 17, 1993, the Union has requested the Respondent to bargain and since June 22, 1993, the Respondent has refused. We find that this refusal constitutes an unlawful refusal to bargain in violation of Section 8(a)(5) and (1) of the Act.

**CONCLUSION OF LAW**

By refusing on and after June 22, 1993, to bargain with the Union as the exclusive collective-bargaining representative of employees in the appropriate unit, the Respondent has engaged in unfair labor practices affecting commerce within the meaning of Section 8(a)(5) and (1) and Section 2(6) and (7) of the Act.

## REMEDY

Having found that the Respondent has violated Section 8(a)(5) and (1) of the Act, we shall order it to cease and desist, to bargain on request with the Union, and, if an understanding is reached, to embody the understanding in a signed agreement.

To ensure that the employees are accorded the services of their selected bargaining agent for the period provided by the law, we shall construe the initial period of the certification as beginning the date the Respondent begins to bargain in good faith with the Union. *Mar-Jac Poultry Co.*, 136 NLRB 785 (1962); *Lamar Hotel*, 140 NLRB 226, 229 (1962), enf'd. 328 F.2d 600 (5th Cir. 1964), cert. denied 379 U.S. 817 (1964); *Burnett Construction Co.*, 149 NLRB 1419, 1421 (1964), enf'd. 350 F.2d 57 (10th Cir. 1965).

## ORDER

The National Labor Relations Board orders that the Respondent, Conagra, Inc., d/b/a Northern States Beef, Edgar, Wisconsin, its officers, agents, successors, and assigns, shall

## 1. Cease and desist from

(a) Refusing to bargain with United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 73A, AFL-CIO-CLC, as the exclusive bargaining representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

(b) In any like or related manner interfering with, restraining, or coercing employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed them by Section 7 of the Act.

2. Take the following affirmative action necessary to effectuate the policies of the Act.

(a) On request, bargain with the Union as the exclusive representative of the employees in the following appropriate unit on terms and conditions of employment and, if an understanding is reached, embody the understanding in a signed agreement:

All full-time and regular part-time production and maintenance employees employed by the Employer at its plant at 316 Third Avenue, Edgar, Wisconsin; excluding all office clerical employees, quality assurance employees, sales persons, graders, computer operators-programmers, panel board operators, logic system operator, manifestors, checkers, dispatchers, plant clericals, scalers, ground beef formulators, buyers, electronic scales technician, medical department employees, night sanitation employees, janitors, truck spotters and washers, managerial employees, professional employees, guards and supervisors as defined in the Act.

(b) Post at its facility in Edgar, Wisconsin, copies of the attached notice marked "Appendix."<sup>2</sup> Copies of the notice, on forms provided by the Regional Director for Region 30, after being signed by the Respondent's authorized representative, shall be posted by the Respondent immediately upon receipt and maintained for 60 consecutive days in conspicuous places including all places where notices to employees are customarily posted. Reasonable steps shall be taken by the Respondent to ensure that the notices are not altered, defaced, or covered by any other material.

(c) Notify the Regional Director in writing within 20 days from the date of this Order what steps the Respondent has taken to comply.

Dated, Washington, D.C. November 10, 1993

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James M. Stephens, Chairman

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Dennis M. Devaney, Member

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John Neil Raudabaugh, Member

(SEAL) NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

<sup>2</sup>If this Order is enforced by a judgment of a United States court of appeals, the words in the notice reading "Posted by Order of the National Labor Relations Board" shall read "Posted Pursuant to a Judgment of the United States Court of Appeals Enforcing an Order of the National Labor Relations Board."

## APPENDIX

NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES  
POSTED BY ORDER OF THE  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD  
An Agency of the United States Government

The National Labor Relations Board has found that we violated the National Labor Relations Act and has ordered us to post and abide by this notice.

WE WILL NOT refuse to bargain with United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 73A, AFL-CIO-CLC, as the exclusive representative of the employees in the bargaining unit.

WE WILL NOT in any like or related manner interfere with, restrain, or coerce you in the exercise of the rights guaranteed you by Section 7 of the Act.

WE WILL, on request, bargain with the Union and put in writing and sign any agreement reached on terms and conditions of employment for our employees in the bargaining unit:

All full-time and regular part-time production and maintenance employees employed by us at our plant at 316 Third Avenue, Edgar, Wisconsin; excluding all office clerical employees, quality assurance employees, sales persons, graders, computer operators-programmers, panel board operators, logic system operator, manifestors, checkers, dispatchers, plant clericals, scalers, ground beef

formulators, buyers, electronic scales technician, medical department employees, night sanitation employees, janitors, truck spotters and washers, managerial employees, professional employees, guards and supervisors as defined in the Act.

CONAGRA, INC., D/B/A NORTHERN  
STATES BEEF